

Civic Task Group Recommendations

15 May 2017

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request Council to consider the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the establishment of a Civic and Citizenship Panel and a Citizenship Awards Scheme.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council considers the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out below :

- (1) That a Civic and Citizenship Panel to include the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Honorary appointments, dignitaries and community representatives be established by the Council to support the Mayoralty in undertake the following:
 - Promote citizenship through organising visits to schools, clubs etc.
 - Assist with the organisation of Local Democracy Week.
 - Run the Citizenship awards with the CVS.
 - Promote the Mayor's Charity and assist the Mayor with fund raising events.
 - Assist in the organisation of Mayor Making and Civic events.
 - Assist with the developing the Civic role.

- (2) That a Mayor's Citizenship award scheme be established by the Civic and Citizenship Panel in conjunction with CVS and consider introducing the following categories:
 - Bravery Award.
 - Young Carer Award.
 - Young entrepreneur/business Award.

1. Introduction

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee established a working group to re-consider the recommendations of the Formal Civic Task Group. The working group met just once to consider the recommendations of the original Task Group that had not been implemented and reported back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. Proposal

Civic and Citizenship Panel

The main recommendation that was discussed was that of establishing a Civic and Citizenship Panel. This had been attempted when the original report was considered ten years ago but problems had arisen in trying to recruit members of the public to take part. Only a handful of people had come forward and it was agreed by the Council Business Committee, that this recommendation would not go any further forward.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that it would be more beneficial for the Panel to comprise of Aldermen, former Councillors who had been Mayor and also their Mayoresses.

It was also felt important that the Deputy Mayor should be included in the membership of the Panel and naturally the Mayor.

Mayor's Citizenship Awards

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee felt that the introduction of Citizenship Awards could be undertaken easily with little resource implications and the civic pride that it would create for local people would be important.

Officers met with CVS to discuss the award scheme they had in place to avoid duplication. CVS were keen to work with the Council to create a joint Awards Scheme and felt the Mayor's Awards would become an important esteemed award ceremony for the district.

Currently, CVS hold annual awards which include the following categories :

- Volunteer of the Year (aged 25 or over).
- Young Volunteer of the Year (aged 24 or under).
- Trustee of the Year.
- Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Volunteer Sports Coach of the Year.
- Fundraiser of the Year.
- Community Inspiration of the Year.

The Committee agreed that the Panel could consider introducing the following awards :

- Bravery Award.
- Young Carer Award.
- Staff Award.
- Young entrepreneur/business Award.

But this list is open to discussion by the Panel once it is established.

3. Officer Comments

The introduction of a Civic and Citizenship Panel would promote the Civic element of Lancaster City Council and involve a greater number of people in civic life with a wealth of information and experience. There would be no resource implications in establishing the Panel.

The Citizenship awards would have some resource implications, such as refreshments and frames for certificates but they are fairly insignificant in comparison to the civic pride that would be created.

4. Conclusion

Members are asked to consider the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, set out in this report, to promote the Council's civic element and raise awareness and civic pride within the district.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

There are no direct implications as a result of this report.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

There are no direct implications as a result of this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications as a direct result of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The funding of the awards will be met from the Civic Receptions and Mayoral Functions budget (Estimate £6,100 in 2017/18).

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

None arising from this report.

Information Services:

None arising from this report.

Property:

None arising from this report.

Open Spaces:

None arising from this report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Civic Task Group Final Report

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